

Message Text

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PAGE 01 RANGOO 03046 021055Z

44

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 SP-02 NSC-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00

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TAGS: PINT, PFOR, BM

SUBJ: INTERNATIONAL HERALD TRIBUNE EDITORIAL ON BURMA

WE COMMEND TO THE DEPARTMENT'S ATTENTION THE EDITORIAL ON "THE RE-ENTRY OF BURMA" IN THE AUGUST 24 ISSUE OF THE INTERNATIONAL HERALD TRIBUNE. IT CONTAINS INFORMED COMMENTARY ON BURMA'S CURRENT SITUATION. THE PENULTIMATE PARAGRAPH, HOWEVER, IS SOMEWHAT AMBIGUOUS. IF IT MEANS WHAT WE THINK THE TRIB INTENDED AND WHAT, IN ANY EVENT, THE NORMAL INFORMED READER WILL PERCEIVE, NAMELY THAT THE U.S. SHOULD PARTICIPATE IN LOANS IF IT IS SATISFIED THAT THE PROCEEDS WILL BE ADMINISTERED WITH PROBITY, THEN WE MUST DISAGREE. ALTHOUGH CORRUPTION HAS BECOME PERVERSIVE, THE DAMAGE IT INFLICTS UPON THE ECONOMY IS INSIGNIFICANT WHEN COMPARED WITH THE EFFECTS OF WHOLLY ECONOMIC POLICIES DERIVED FROM HONEST BUT MISGUIDED INTENTIONS. WE SEE NOT "A RACE BETWEEN THE NE WIN GOVERNMENT AND CHAOS" BUT CHAOS DIRECTLY MANUFACTURED BY THIS GOVERNMENT. UNLESS THE LOANS ARE ACCOMPANIED, OR BETTER STILL PRECEDED, BY RATIONAL POLICY CHANGES, THEY RUN THE RISK OF ACCELERATING THE ADVENT OF THE CHAOS THEY SHOULD SEEK TO AVERT. THE REST OF THE EDITORIAL IS BALANCED AND THE FINAL PARAGRAPH ESPECIALLY RELEVANT.

OSBORN

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PAGE 02 RANGOO 03046 021055Z

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